

PATIENCE.

A Blind Couple That Keep House in a Model Manner.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Chase, of Nantucket, are examples of fortitude and resignation under that most terrible of all afflictions—blindness. Although the husband has passed three score years and ten and the wife has nearly reached it, they live alone in a cottage on Milk street, which, without help, they keep up to the high standard of New England neatness.

No one would suppose that blind persons were the caretakers of their little home. There is not a speck of dust to be seen. None of the pictures is awry. There are house plants on the window-sills. The floor is spotless. Both are devout members of the Baptist church. They always decline guidance to the church, declaring that when doing their duty providence will guard them from danger. When, however, the infrequent opportunity of going to hear music, of which both are very fond, comes, they are glad of assistance, fearing, as they say, that in the pursuit of mere pleasure harm may come to them.

Mr. Chase has been blind 20 years, but his wife lost her sight at five years of age and has never seen her husband. He, however, saw her at 18 and thinks of her now as still in the full flush of girlish beauty. Mrs. Chase reads aloud from the raised letter Bible for the blind and this is their favorite occupation. In order that the wife's fingers may be in good condition to read the husband does the heavier work of the household. The couple are much esteemed by the townspeople, whose charity ekes out their slender means.—N. Y. World.

WEALTH IN COAL.

The United States Is Immensely Rich in Its Buried Fuel.

The coal mined in the United States each year is worth more than three times as much as the gold mined here. The product of the anthracite fields alone exceeds in value the output of the gold mines of this country, Canada and Alaska, which last year amounted to over \$55,000,000.

East of the Rocky mountains there are 192,000 square miles of coal lands and the annual output is nearly 200,000,000 tons. Geologists estimate the great coal fields of the world as follows: China, 200,000; United States, east of the Rockies, 192,000; Canada, 65,000; India, 35,500; New South Wales, 24,000; Russia, 20,000, and the United Kingdom, 11,500 square miles. There are many deposits in other countries, but their extent is inconsiderable. England's coal area, as is shown above, is small, still she for years produced more than any other country.

Now the United States is ahead. England coal veins are thin; one only 14 inches wide has been worked 1,200 feet down. On the other hand, there are veins in the Pennsylvania anthracite region 60 feet thick, and in the bituminous regions 18 feet thick. Our Appalachian coal fields are the largest known, and alone could supply the whole world for centuries to come. At the present rate of production it is estimated that our coal fields will be exhausted in 616 years, while those of England will last but 212 years. The first coal found in America was near Ottawa, Ill., by Father Hennepin, a French explorer, in 1679. It was first mined on the Schuylkill during Washington's administration.—N. Y. World.

GAME OF DRAW.

Distribution of Uniforms in a Hibernian Military Camp.

A private in the Irish national guard regiment was asked, while the regiment was in camp at Springfield, Ill., if he had drawn a new uniform, according to the correspondent of the Military Gazette, of Chicago, the following was Pat's reply:

"What, an' is it draw you call it? Shure it's up till now I didn't know the name of the game. That big devil over there with a wart on his mind, sez 'line up there till I look yez over and see what yez want.' Shure it was hard to miss us, we wanted all he had. And when the other gabaz with the Brooklyn byes on both sleeves handed Murray a pair of pants that looked as if built for me, I wint in with the rest of the gang and a beautiful time we had. So it's draw ye call it. I'll show the game to the boys in Kinnally's alley and the man who comes out with a full suit of clothes on the call of time, we'll run for alderman in the Thirteenth ward."

Palindromes.

A person with a considerable amount of spare time on his hands has collected the following list of words which may be spelled forwards or backwards—palindromes, as they are called in learned language. Anna, bab, bib, bub, civic, dad, deed, deified, dowed, did, ecce, eve, ewe, eye, gog, gig, gag, level, madam, noon, otto, pap, peep, pip, pop, pup, redder, refer, repaper, reviver, rotator, sees, sexes, shahs, tab, tit, too, tot, and tut.

NEW MONKEY FAMILY.

A Curiosity Discovered in Africa Known as the Guereza.

R. J. W. Gregory, of the Natural History Museum, of London, reports the discovery of a family of African monkeys that adds another curiosity to the wonders of the zodiac, provided they are fortunate enough to obtain specimens. These monkeys are found in certain districts of East Africa, and pass most of their time in the dense forests clothing Mount Kilima Njaro and other districts of that section, says the New York Herald.

The black-stemmed trees in which they make their homes are thickly draped with gray beard moss or lichen, which reaches for several feet below the boughs. As the monkeys hang from the branches, Dr. Gregory says they so closely resemble the lichen that he found it impossible to recognize them even when only a short distance away.

These monkeys are known to the natives of certain districts of East Africa by the name of guereza. They belong to the group of thumbless apes which are restricted to the African continent, where they take the place of the langurs, or sacred apes, of India and other oriental countries. From the other thumbless apes the guerezas, or the species to which the name properly applies, are distinguished by their long, silky black and white coats, which are much sought after by the natives of Africa as articles of their scanty costume and for purposes of decoration.

In the typical Abyssinian guereza the greater part of the fur of the body and limbs is of a deep, shining black, but from the shoulders there depends a mantle of long, white, silky hair, extending down each side and meeting on the lower part of the back, so as to hang down over the sides of the body as well as over the hips and thighs. The terminal third of the tail is also clothed with long white hairs. Strikingly handsome as is this species, it is excelled in this respect by the East African guereza—the one met with by Dr. Gregory—in which the base of the tail alone is black, the whole of the remainder of that appendage being developed into a magnificent white brush, which may be compared to an Indian chowri or fly whisk.

Black and white is a type of decoration so conspicuous and at the same time so rare among the larger mammals, that whenever it occurs we may be sure it is developed for some special purpose, although, unless we have an opportunity of seeing the animals in their native haunts, it is almost impossible to divine what that purpose may be.

GOLD IN GRAVES.

Some Accidental Discoveries of Treasure in the West.

Many of the gold finds in the Klondike region have been purely accidental and some of them were decidedly interesting, though perhaps not more so than many accidental finds in our own west in the '40s and '50s. It was before 1850 that three men, while looking for gold in California, discovered the dead body of a man who evidently had been "prospecting." "Poor fellow!" said one of the trio. "He has passed in his checks!" "Let's give him a decent burial," said another. "Some wife or mother will be glad if ever she knows it." They began to dig a grave. Three feet below the surface they discovered the signs of gold. The stranger was buried in another place, and where they located a grave they opened a gold mine.

An adventurer who had drifted into Leadville awoke one morning without food or money. He went out and shot a deer, which, in its dying agonies, kicked up the dirt and disclosed signs of gold. The poor man staked out a "claim" and opened one of the most profitable mines ever worked in Leadville.

"Dead Man Claim," the name given to another rich mine in Leadville, was discovered by a broken-down miner while digging a grave. A miner died when there were several feet of snow on the ground. His comrades laid his body in a snowbank and hired a man for \$20 to dig a grave. The grave digger, after three days' absence, was found digging a mine instead of a grave. While excavating he had struck gold. Forgetting the corpse and his bargain, he thought only of the fact that he had "struck it rich."—Philadelphia Press.

An Unburied King.

It will surprise most people to learn that the king of Spain, to whom a statue has just been inaugurated at Madrid, is not yet buried, but, covered with a winding sheet, lies on a marble slab in a vault of the Escorial. This is in accordance with a custom dating from the year 1700. The body will lie where it is until the present king dies. Then it will be deposited with great pomp beside the remains of his predecessors in the chapel of the Escorial.

—A pound of phosphorus heads 1,000,000 matches.

BUILD IMMENSE HILLS.

Work of the Destructive White Ants or Tropical termites.

These insects live on wood and have been known to eat up valuable furniture and entire frame houses.

The entomological department of the American Museum of Natural History at New York has been enriched by the addition of structures built by the white ant or termite of the tropical region of this hemisphere, collected by Mr. Francis C. Nicholson, a mining engineer of No. 111 Broadway, New York, and presented to the museum by Mr. Henry C. Pratt. Specimens of the little insects were included in the gift, and these, too, will be placed on exhibition in a short time in connection with the structures, which are displayed on the gallery floor of the east wing.

Of these white ants from tropical America little is known, and their classification is far from complete. The structures exhibited are the nests of the termite, and Mr. William Beutenmüller, the curator of the department of entomology, who has bestowed much study on the subject, says they are the only specimens of the kind in this country.

The largest of the nests, which in reality is an ant-hill, comes from the United States of Colombia. It is conical in shape, and is composed of mud and wood pulp. It is about six feet high, and originally rested on the ground. A cross section shows that the interior contains innumerable chambers and passageways. The other specimens, of which there are two, are displayed in their original positions—attached to parts of trees. One is pear shaped and comes from Hayti, and the other is irregular in form and was found near Kingston, Jamaica.

The inhabitants of all three structures possess similar characteristics, being divided into four classes, known as the males and females, the workers and the soldiers. The males and females have eyes and wings, which workers and soldiers do not possess. The fe-



ANT HILL FROM COLOMBIA. (This Structure Was Occupied as a Residence and Fort.)

males, however, lose their wings after swarming and while still young. Those that do not perish return to the nest to become the future queens, or found new colonies. The full-grown queen is a most sedentary and august personage, for she never leaves the royal chamber after reaching maturity. She is, in fact, a prisoner, for the openings to her chamber are so small that she cannot pass out. She is many times larger than her subjects.

The males apparently have little to do, while the poor workers perform all the labor for the colony. This ant is an indomitable laborer and does everything in the line of work, from building the nest to preparing food for and feeding the young and the queen. Some of them are engaged continually in carrying away the innumerable eggs deposited by the queen. The worker appears to have a distinct sense of its own, which compensates for the lack of sight.

The soldier is a valiant denizen of the community. If, while patrolling the passages that lead to the nest, the insect discovers a part that is broken it straightway rushes to the nest and rallies all the available workers and summons a number of fellow soldiers, who stand guard to protect the workers from attack while repairing the break, when they are the last to enter the passage.

They display ingenuity in forming a defense and display great heroism. They have pear-shaped heads, which terminate at the nose in a sharp point. A tube runs to the rear of the head from this point and connects with a magazine surrounded with strong muscles. These, contracting, discharge an offensive, glutinous shot that renders hors de combat an antagonist twice the size of the soldier.

The termite is a highly destructive creature. Its diet consists of wood, and, being a voracious eater, residences, furniture and all other things made of wood other than Spanish cedar are damaged beyond repair if once attacked. On this account the interiors of most houses where the termite exists are constructed of Spanish cedar, the odor of which is said to repel the insects. The destructive feasts of the little white ant have caused the loss of millions of dollars to the Panama Canal company and the Panama Railroad company.

Electrical Rat Trap.

An electrical rat trap is said to have captured 123 rats in one night in a New York restaurant. The trap is baited with chicken—an irresistible attraction to rats. As soon as a rodent is inside his return is electrically cut off, and he passes, by doors and passageways to a compartment in which are meat and vegetables, but no chicken. The rats outside hear expressions of enjoyment of his lunch, and hasten to join him.

Billiard Balls of Steel.

As the supply of ivory is becoming short, billiard balls of cast steel are being used in Sweden. By making them hollow the weight is made to correspond with that of ivory balls.

SUPERSTITIOUS TURKS.

They Have Some Beliefs of an Extraordinary Kind.

Some of the Turkish superstitions are of the most extraordinary nature. For instance, if by any chance a sparrow or swallow flies in at the window and circles three times around the room it is a sign that a blood relation of some one present is about to die. There are many signs and happenings that are supposed to predict marriage.

When in summer a bee flies in at the window it is regarded as the harbinger of good news, as is also a thistle-down or a beetle. A moth at night flying about a light means thoughts and good wishes from immortals; the unexpected braying of a donkey a visit from an unpleasant acquaintance. If a man leaves his home for business and walks along the street and a bird alights exactly in front of him three times, he turns on his heel and goes home, and no power short of an imperial firman will make him pass that place again that day, for he is sure that if he attempts to do so something unpleasant will happen to him. A dog running three times across his path will also turn him back.

When a Turk is starting out upon an important venture he will say to himself: "The issue will be as I desire it if the first three persons I meet have blue eyes." Blue eyes being far less common than black, he takes the chances, and sometimes sees the three blue-eyed ones first. Angury is also made from the forms of the clouds and by entrails of fish, animals and towns, from orange pits and the odd or even number of divisions in the pulp. If a red orange be peeled by accident the person feels great pleasure, as that betokens prosperity and gold.—Philadelphia Press.

A CURIOSITY.

Big Prices Brought by Eggs of the Great Auk.

Eggs of the great auk appear to be falling in the estimation of collectors of curiosities. One was recently sold for \$160, the lowest price brought by this relic of an extinct creature in many years. Only 70 great auk eggs are known to be in existence, and 50 of these are owned in England.

The latest sold is a unique specimen found in Iceland. It was brought from there by the finder, a ship-owner of St. Malo, about 1830, and presented by him to Comte Raoul de Berace. Instead of having the red and black markings usually characteristic of the eggs of the great auk, it has pale green spots deep in the shell, which is dull in color and deeply grained. The egg measures four and a half inches long and is three inches in diameter at the larger end. Upon the death of Comte Raoul de Berace it was purchased by Baron d'Hamonville, and ultimately found its way to England.

In some of its journeyings it has received two or three cracks on one side, which may have slightly lessened its value. The sale was made by J. C. Stevens, of King street, Covent Garden, London, and the purchaser was Mr. Middlebrook. Although there were a large number of curio dealers and private collectors present the bidding was spiritless. Since 1894 seven of the eggs in England have changed hands. In that year there were sold the first for \$315, the second for £168, and the third for £183. In 1895 £189 was paid for one, and in the same year another brought £173. In 1896 one went for £168, and this year another fetched £294.—N. Y. World.

Fireproof Wood.

A new American process for rendering wood nonflammable was submitted to a practical test on the site of the old Millbank prison, London, the other day in the presence of a number of onlookers, including the prince of Wales, the lord chancellor, the United States ambassador, and other notabilities. Two model wooden houses had been erected, says Tit-Bits, and fire was applied to them, after, on the side of each, had been piled fagots drenched in paraffin. One blazed up at once, and in 20 minutes had become ashes. The other absolutely refused to catch fire, and suffering no more harm than the blistering of the paint and the partial charring of the woodwork which had been in immediate contact with the blazing fagots. The difference between the two houses was that one was built of ordinary wood, the other of wood prepared to resist fire by a patent process, which consists in extracting the natural sap and gases, and replacing them by nonflammable chemicals. The process has been used for some time in America with success, and is now adopted in all war ships built by the United States.

—There were only 500 miles of underground wire in London in 1869; there are now 13,000 miles. In 1869 there were 54 miles of pneumatic tubes, compared with 40 miles now.

—In London, out of 100 widowers who marry again 12 marry their housekeepers.

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The barn belonging to Alex. Dunlap, of Fayette county, burned to the ground.

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Term.—Fourth Monday in February—term six weeks; first Monday in June—term four weeks; first Monday in September—term six weeks.
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